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Donna Kemp Spangler, Editor

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## Ex Deputy Director of DEQ Receives National Recognition

Brent Bradford, former deputy director of the Department of Environmental Quality, came out of retirement briefly, to accept an award for his leadership that paved the way for stronger state partnerships with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Environmental Council of States (ECOS), a national association of the 50 state environmental agencies' leaders, awarded Bradford the prestigious Founders Award for his 10-year-long service that led to better joint planning between states and EPA.

Bradford retired four years ago after serving 12 years as deputy director of DEQ and a total of 31 in state government. Since then, he has devoted much of his time playing the mandolin and banjo with the bluegrass band, Stormy Mountain Boys, and catching a few fish.

*Leah Ann Lamb, Brent Bradford,  
Rick Sprott, Bill Sinclair*



"It's real unusual to leave a lasting mark," Rick Sprott, executive director of DEQ, told a small gathering of DEQ employees Oct. 16 to honor Bradford. "Brent spent years advocating for

Performance Partnership Grants (PPA). I know he has made a difference in the way EPA does business.”

Steve Brown, executive director of ECOS, said the work Brent initiated during his tenure at ECOS is now being embraced by EPA and all the states.

“Two issues really stand out,” Brown said. “Management of environmental data took a significant step forward this year in that all 50 states contributed to that data, using the methods first suggested by Brent. And Brent has been instrumental in reducing the federal burden to the states. That has rung true with the deputy administrator of EPA in that we have reach an agreement on a list that states won’t have to do any more. Those agreements should be in place by 2009 and it is an issue Brent started.”

Leah Ann Lamb, director of planning and public affairs and a representative of the state to ECOS, said Bradford was committed to making improvements. For instance, he was instrumental in drafting a National Environmental Performance Partnership System, known as the NEPPS Agreement.

“His vision and passion for the new system resulted in DEQ entering into the nation’s first ever Performance Partnership Grant with EPA,” she said. “Brent also advocated for joint strategy planning between states and EPA and vigorously pursued ways to eliminate federal bureaucratic red tape.”

Bradford’s work has led to the creation of the ECOS-EPA Data Management Work Group, a group which produced the “Vision and Operating Principles” that are still in effect today. He served as the EPA’s Region 8 representative to ECOS Executive Committee and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ECOS Planning Committee.

Bradford was humbled by the award.

“This was a real surprise,” he said. “I’m grateful for the award but there were a lot of people who made it work and this is a feather in everyone’s hat. We all need to share in it.”

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## **Gov. Kicks off Speaker’s Forum: Environment Ranks Among Top Issues with Governor**

The Department of Environmental Quality is crucial in carrying out the state’s top initiatives and priorities, Governor Jon Huntsman told DEQ employees during a visit here on Oct. 18.



*Utah Governor Jon Huntsman Jr.*

“This is a premiere organization,” he said. “We are relying on you.”

Huntsman came to DEQ at the invite of Leadership Development Group No. 3, which created a twice-yearly speaker’s forum to hear from leaders around the state on matters of significant interest to DEQ.

The Governor was the first ambassador to participate.

“Since this is a professional development forum we wanted to get the Governor to kick it off,” said Tom Ball, a member of the group who works in Solid and Hazardous Waste. “I filled out a request form from the Governor’s Web site and the Governor’s Office responded in two days.”

Executive Director Rick Sprott was pleased Huntsman accepted. “This is the first Governor to come down here, absent a ‘going away’ event or some award,” he joked. He later remarked that he was pleased with the Governor’s visit and what he had to say.

“The Governor sincerely cares about what we do and respects the quality of our work,” he said. “We will invite the Governor back in the future for a smaller discussion group.”

Huntsman said he was honored to speak before public servants who help carry out his mission of leaving a legacy of a better environment.

“The environment is about humanity,” he said. “It’s about the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we share. These are truly important legacy issues.”

Utah has a long-standing tradition of environmental stewardship, Huntsman added. For instance, when President Theodore Roosevelt visited Utah in 1903 he thanked the people of the state for being good conservationists, he said. “That ethos gets forgotten but we shouldn’t forget we come from roots firmly planted with a respect for land conservation. We need to continue to carry out that ethos.”

Utah’s growing population and economic development opportunities have changed the state’s landscape, putting “stress and strains on our land,” he said. Currently the state receives roughly 20 million visitors a year. “We need to be mindful of the fact that is growing because more people romanticize about coming out West.”

Huntsman’s focus is on three key areas: education, quality of life and governance. His priorities this year reflect that – health care, teacher pay, and air quality.

“Air quality, because it has arrived to the point in time where we now know it is harmful,” he said. “DEQ’s mission to ‘safeguard public health and our quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment’ is important, but we have a serious challenge.”

Huntsman said his energy efficiency initiative and climate change can help improve the air. “I have an ambitious plan to improve energy efficiency in this state by 20 percent by 2015.”

Utah is part of the Western Regional Climate Initiative that has set a regional goal of 15 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. “In June of next year, Utah will have a state goal,” he said.

Huntsman also established the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change to help develop strategies to achieve the state and regional goals. A renewable portfolio initiative is under way, he

added. He anticipates a goal of 20 percent by 2025 to reduce emissions. "That gets to the heart and soul of reducing air pollution."

"Part of what we are doing, you are in the middle of making it happen," Huntsman said.

Huntsman's visit can be viewed on the Internet at: [http://real2.state.ut.us:554/RAMGEN/deq/10-18-2007\\_deq.rm](http://real2.state.ut.us:554/RAMGEN/deq/10-18-2007_deq.rm)

*Pictured (L-R) Jon Huntsman Jr., Tom Ball (DSHW), Gwyn Galloway (DRC), Mark Wensel (DTS), Carl Adams (DWQ), Joseph Randolph (DAQ), Doug Bacon (DERR), Frank Roberts (DDW), Dennis Downs (Director, DSHW)*



## **Speaker Forum**

Leadership Development Group No. 3 has handed off the twice-yearly forums to the Department's Employee Development Committee to schedule the speakers and its topic.

The group provided the Employee Committee with lists of potential speakers and topics that were development from DEQ employees in a survey. The Employee Committee will use these lists as suggestions for future forums.

Dennis Downs, director of Solid and Hazardous Waste and group mentor, liked what the group came up with.

"I think it's a good idea to have Department folks hear the perspectives of other agencies," he said. "Some of the speakers are the movers and shakers of environmental issues."

Doug Bacon of Environmental Response and Remediation hopes other forums will come off as good as the one Huntsman delivered.

"I think Huntsman far exceeded the bar," he said. "The goal was to hear his vision and I'm glad to hear he has a willingness to come back."

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## **Utah Businesses Recognized for Reducing Pollution**

Pacific States Cast Iron Pipe Company managed to cut its water use by 40,000 gallons a day while it manufactures pipes used largely to supply drinking water. The Provo company also reduced 100 tons of pollutants by switching to a water-based pipe coating.

Those efforts, along with the similar successes of five other companies and organizations along the Wasatch Front, were praised at the Utah Pollution Prevention Association's annual luncheon on September 27.

Rick Sprott, executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), praised Pacific States and others for going above and beyond regulatory requirements. "You walk the walk," he told the group. "You are the environmental heroes."

*Bruce Allen (ATK Facilities Engineer),  
Kalene Bradley (ATK Environmental Compliance Officer),  
Rick Sprott (Director, DEQ),  
Judy Moran (U of U, Vice President, Utah P2 Association)*



The Outstanding Achievement award was presented to Pacific States for implementing four projects that resulted in huge environmental benefits. Environmental Manager David Georgeson said the projects also made economic sense. "We looked at the low-hanging fruit and found leaks. By implementing a control system for cooling and casting, we were able to cut our water usage by 40,000 gallons a day."

ATK Aerospace Structure Division's pollution prevention team reviewed the company's purchasing processes and made changes that reduced its non-hazardous and hazardous waste and increased recycling. "ATK takes environment very seriously," said Company spokeswoman Kalene Bradley.

La-Z-Boy Utah, last year's Outstanding Achievement recipient, reduced landfill disposal by 53 tons. It also reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 14 percent by finding more ways to reduce pollution.

Utah Transit Authority reduced the idling of their diesel busses by two-and-a-half hours a day per vehicle and saved \$1 million in fuel and labor costs while reducing air pollution in the process. "People look to UTA to be a leader in environmental issues," said Jerry Benson, chief operating officer.

Another government agency, Salt Lake Valley Landfill, was recognized for creating a power plant that converts methane gas, created by the decomposition of garbage, into electricity enough to power 2,000 homes in Murray City. "It's awesome we can use this gas in a beneficial way," said Tom Burrup, the landfill's environmental manager.

And, Great Salt Lakekeeper was honored for a four-month cleanup last year of the Jordan River Parkway. Nearly 500 volunteers collected 40,000 pounds of garbage and debris from a 23-mile stretch of the river. The cleanup is an on-going project, said Jeff Salt, executive director. Discarded tires, shopping carts and aluminum beverage cans were removed and carted away to the landfill for disposal or recycling.

Also, the Pollution Prevention Association, a nonprofit group dedicated to reducing pollution through practical, cost-saving measures, honored Sonja Wallace of DEQ for efforts in forming the organization in 1991.

“These businesses and organizations are truly leaders in their fields,” said Leah Ann Lamb, director of Planning and Public Affairs. “This Association tries to show that businesses can improve their bottom line and reduce pollution at the same time.”